

Message Text

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S E C R E T GENEVA 8350

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH

SUBJECT: IAN SMITH'S PRESS REMARKS ON OCT 25

FOR SCHAUFLE

1. I HAVE OBTAINED FROM A TAPE RECORDING HELD BY RHODESIAN DELEGATION THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH WERE DEVELOPED DURING IAN SMITH'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 25.

QUESTION: DID YOU ADD ANY DETAILS TO THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF YOUR OWN?

SMITH'S ANSWER: WE ADDED CERTAIN MATTERS TO THE FIVE PRINCIPLES WHICH WERE CONTAINED IN ANNEX C. NOW THE FIVE PRINCIPLES I BELIEVE YOU WILL BE TOLD ARE A CONDENSATION OF ANNEX C. SO ANYTHING WE ADDED CAME FROM ANNEX C WHICH WAS A RATHER LONG PAPER OF ABOUT SIX FOOLSCAP PAGES. THERE WERE THINGS SUCH AS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS WHOLE EXERCISE. THERE ARE MANY DETAILS OF THIS WHICH ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT. AND WE WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THIS HAD VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THE BLACK PRESIDENTS.

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER SMITH WAS ASKED A SECOND SET OF QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: THE DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AS THE SUPREME BODY, WAS THAT SOMETHING THAT WAS AGREED? GIVING THE COUNCIL OF STATE VETO POWERS OVER THE MAJORITY GOVERNMENT - WAS THAT SOME-

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THING AGREED OR ADDED?

SMITH: THAT IS QUITE CLEARLY PART OF THE AGREEMENT AND THAT WAS AGREED.

QUESTION: THAT WASN'T - THOSE WORDS WERE USED, AS IT WERE IN YOUR PREAMBLE RATHER THAN IN THE POINT AT WHICH YOU SAID "THESE ARE THE WORDS I HAVE BEEN TOLD TO SAY".

SMITH: YES. THEN THEY WERE TAKEN FROM APPENDIX C.

2. THE RHODESIAN TAPE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE RAN OUT SHORTLY THEREAFTER. I AM NOT SURE WE HAVE A FULL LIST OF ALL REFERENCES TO ANNEX C BUT IT APPEARS TO THE BRITISH AND RHODESIAN PRESS OFFICER NO MORE WAS SAID.

3. SMITH'S REFERENCES TO ANNEX C ARE GARBLED AND CONFUSED. SO CLUMSY IS HIS REFERENCE TO ANNEX C THAT IT SEEMS HE GAVE HIS ANSWERS WITHOUT REFLECTION. DURING MY MEETING WITH HIM ON OCT 25 I REMINDED SMITH THE AFRICANS DID NOT HAVE A COPY OF ANNEX C. I TOLD HIM THAT SINCE ANNEX C REPRESENTED HIS MARGIN OF SAFETY HE SHOULD NOT REVEAL ITS EXISTENCE. SMITH GAVE NO INDICATION HE DISAGREED.

4. NEVERTHELESS THE PRESS KNOWS SOMETHING IS AFOOT. BRIDGET BLOOM, LONDON'S MOST RESOURCEFUL AND BEST-INFORMED AFRICAN EXPERT ASKED SMITH THE SECOND BATTERY OF QUESTIONS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESSED DAVID BRIGHTY, IVOR RICHARD'S PERSONAL PRESS AIDE FOR CLARIFICATION OF WHAT SMITH MEANT BY ANNEX C. BRIGHTY, NOT UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT BRUSHED THESE QUESTIONS ASIDE AND THEY WERE NOT PURSUED. TIME'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT HERMAN NICHOL CALLED ME SEVERAL TIMES. WHEN I SPOKE WITH HIM I TOLD HIM I HAD NO IDEA WHAT SMITH WAS TALKING ABOUT.

5. WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE FURTHER PRESS INQUIRIES BUT ON OCT 26 I RECOMMEND WE EVADE THE QUESTION.

6. IF THE QUESTION IS PURSUED BY THE PRESS ON OCT 26 THE BRITISH SPOKESMAN IN GENEVA COULD SAY THAT SMITH'S STATEMENT IS CONFUSED AND HE WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION UNTIL HE CAN OBTAIN CLARIFICATION. IF THE QUESTION IS RAISED AGAIN ON OCT 27, THE SPOKESMAN COULD SAY THAT SMITH APPEARS TO BE REFERRING TO THE
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ECONOMIC PACKAGE WHICH WAS NOT PART OF THE FIVE POINTS. HE COULD THEN EXPAND ON THE ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT USING THE SAME LANGUAGE WHICH THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO USE ON THIS SUBJECT ALREADY. WE WOULD ALSO TELL SMITH ON OCT 26 TO MAKE NO FURTHER REFERENCE TO ANNEX C AND TO CONTROL HIS DELEGATION.

7. THERE ARE OBVIOUS RISKS WITH THIS APPROACH. IT WILL BE

DIFFICULT TO MUZZLE THE RHODESIAN AND BRITISH DELEGATIONS AND LONDON. IF THE EXISTENCE OF ANNEX C IS CONFIRMED THROUGH LEAKS THE AFRICANS MAY CHARGE DUPLICITY.

8. IF THE SUBJECT IS PURSUED BY THE PRESS AFTER OCT 27 AND IS RAISED BY THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER TURING OVER ANNEX C AND POINTING OUT TO THE NATIONALISTS THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS WERE FULLY BRIEFED ON ITS CONTENTS BY ROWLANDS AND DUFF.

9. IF WE ARE FORCED TO THIS POSITION SMITH'S FALLBACK POSITION AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD DISAPPEAR AND THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE MOST UNPLEASANT.

10. GIVEN THE CONFUSED STATE OF PLAY IN GENEVA I RECOMMEND TRYING FOR A DAY'S DELAY. AS SOON AS I HAVE RICHARD'S VIEWS I WILL COMMUNICATE THEM BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM. HE IS NOT YET AWARE OF THE INCIDENT AND I PLAN TO SEE HIM AT ABOUT 8:00 A.M. GENEVA TIME.
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